GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:871
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2004
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AID TO COMBAT GLOBAL HUNGER
Zahedi Shri Mahboob

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than 100 countries endorsed a campaign recently to raise an additional $ 50 billion anually to combat global hunger;

(b) if so, whether a series of options for raising the extra money have been set out; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH)

(a), (b) & (c): A Joint Declaration on Action against Hunger and Poverty was issued on 30th January 2004 at a meeting between the Presidents of Brazil, France, Chile and UN Secretary General stressing on the need for the greater international cooperation to ensure availability of resources to tackle pressing economic and social challenges, especially hunger and poverty pursuant to the target of the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) to halve the number of the under-nourished by 2015. It also called for the setting up of a global alliance against poverty and hunger. As an initial step, it was decided to establish a technical group to study different proposals to promote innovative sources of financing and examine mechanisms to efficiently channel the possible additional sources to a special fund to combat hunger and poverty, under the supervision of appropriate multilateral agencies. Further a meeting of World Leaders on Action against Hunger and Poverty took place on 20th September, 2004 at New York which was attended by a number of Heads of State/Government, Vice Heads of State/Government/Ministers etc. The report of the Technical group on Innovative Financial Mechanisms was presented during the event and the New York Declaration on the Action against Hunger and Poverty was adopted during the event. India has supported the said Declaration. The Declaration urges the international community to give careful consideration to the report prepared by the Technical Group established in January, 2004. The Government of India is considering the report of the Technical Group.